(b) the purpose of their visit to the Capital;

(c) the names of the other leaders and diplomats they met in the Capital and gist of their activities and the statements they made during their stay;

(d) whether the same was done with the prior approval of the Central Government and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether their activities and the statements are detrimental to the unity and integrity of the country; and

(f) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) According to available information the following leaders from Jammu and Kashmir visited the Capital during March, 1995:—

(i) Syed Ali Shah Gillani, Jamat-e-Islami.

(ii) Maulvi Umar Farooq, Awami Action Committee.

(iii) Abdul Gani Lone, Peoples Conference.

(iv) Shabir Ahmed Shah, Peoples League.

(v) Ghulam Nabi Sumbji, Muslim Conference.

(vi) Fazal-ul-Haq Qureshi, People's Political Front.

(b) and (c) It is learnt that they had primarily come to Delhi to attend the "Pakistan Day Celebrations" on 23 March 1995 on the invitation of the Pakistan High Commissioner in India. Some of these leaders also met various foreign diplomats, political leaders and other intellectuals during their stay. However, it is not possible to give the details of all the persons whom they have met.

(d) No such permission is required.

(e) and (f) The Government is keeping a watch over the activities of such persons and action as may be considered necessary and appropriate will be taken as required.

Comments of Hurriyat leaders on the situation around Dargah Charar-e-Sharief

3942. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that JKLF militants on being prevented by the security forces from entering the shrine of Chrar-e-Sharief near Srinagar in J&K have occupied the areas around the shrine there;

(b) whether it is also a fact that since then there have been fierce and intermittent firing between the two;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the residents of Charar-e-Sharief are fleeing because of harassment to them by the militants;

(e) if so, how many persons have fled of their houses so far;

(f) whether it is also a fact that Hurriyat leaders, while addressing a meeting at Press Club of India in the Capital, warned the Central Government to lift the siege of the said shrine or face mass agitation and appealed to Muslim countries and OIC countries to impress upon Government to do the same and also denied that Pakistan was supplying arms and ammunition to Kashmiri militants; and

(g) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (e) According to available information, militants belonging to the terrorist outfits Harkat-ul-Ansar and Hizo-ul-Mujahideen have holed themselves up in the township of Charar-e-Sharief where the shrine of the Sufi Saint Hazrat Noor-ud Din-Noorani is situated. The State Government has strengthened the Security arrangements in the vicinity of the township to check any further infiltration and escalation of the situation. There has been intermittent firing between the security forces and the militants but despite provocation the security forces have maintained the utmost restraint to ensure against any harm to civilian life and property, including any damage to the shrine. A large number of people, including women and children, have left the town due to fear and apprehension caused by the presence of militants in the town. However, of late, some families have returned to their homes in the town.

(f) and (g) Government are aware of such reports and of the attempts of Pakistan and its protege groups in the State to use their own acts of violating the sanctity of religious places and trampelling upon the sentiments of the local people, or inability to prevent this, for spreading dis-information and provoking the people.

There is no seige of the shrine and the residents of the town are able to move in and out without impediments. Government had also offered safe passage to the foreign nationals present in the town upto the LOC if they surrendered, which has not drawn any response. A close watch is being kept on the situation and such further action will be taken as may be required keeping in view the situation, the topography of the area and the sanctity of the shrine.

Damage caused to properties of Kashmiri-Pandit migrants

3943. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses of Kashmiri Pandit-migrants in the Valley burnt, damaged or looted;

(b) the number of cases in which compensation has been paid or insurance claims settled; and

(c) the details of the amount so far paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Outcome of Jammu Republic Day Bomb-blast investigations

3944. SHRI JAGMOHAN:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the arrest of a Pakistani terrorist agent, the police authorities in Jammu and Kashmir have resolved the case relating explosions at the Republic Day function in the State in which a number of persons were killed and the State Governor amongst others were injured on January 26, 1995;

(b) if so, what are the details of the plot unearthed and the persons, Indians and foreigners apprehended in connection therewith; and

(c) what follow-up steps have so far been taken in connection therewith?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.